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Comforts Nutshell Story Club

\$100.00 PRIZE STORIES \$100.00

The following conditions will govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the winners of such prizes will be held responsible for all the requirements will receive consideration. All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for any one to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular yearly subscribers to the Nutshell can send in their entries.
2. Two new yearly subscribers (October 1st to 31st) for each entry.
3. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with name of place if desired, must be written on one side of the paper only, addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of GANNETT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.
4. All stories must be strictly original with the contributor who may write from any author, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—adventure, love, war, peace, or city or country life, or references on land or sea—no matter what subject, and must be under 1,000 or less than 1,000 words.
5. No manuscript will be returned unless the circumstances and competitors should thereupon retain a copy of their story.
6. The writer of the best original story will receive \$25.00 of the second best, \$20.00 each, of the third best, \$15.00 each, of the fourth best, \$10.00 each, of the fifth best, \$5.00 each. Prizes will be sent by parcel post to the winner.
7. The prizes will be given for subscriptions and to the prizes given for the best story.
8. The Publishers of "Comforts" reserve the right to publish any of their contributors' stories in their magazine under the following offer, which failed to secure a prize.

An Adventure in a Jungle DAK-BUNGALOW.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY CHAS. EDWD. BARNES.

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BYLON, according to the Buddhist scriptures, was the true and original Garden of Eden. Certainly, if any country of the globe has a right to the name, the lavish gifts of Nature to this little island fit it for the honor. It is one series of picturesque and tropical surprises. From the coral shore to the cloud capped mountain peaks.

I had expected by elephant

venture clinging to the mountainside, over bridges that span vast torrents, skirting the edges of bottomless cañons infested with choicest and huge reptiles, till I burst suddenly upon the magnificent plateau of Newer Billis, which looked like a vast bouquet of wild-flowers, with the cloud-mantled peaks rising on all sides.

It was here that I was the guest of a German baron who had given up his life to the study of the fauna and flora of the island, and who was a very peculiar man. I liked him immensely, but it was always necessary to maintain a sort of distance; for one never knew when he would draw forth a four-foot snake from his coat tails, or a nest of scorpions from his cork helmet, and tell you all about them.

Such friends are interesting to talk to—over a telephone, or a stone wall.

One morning the Baron said that he would take me to the top of old Pedestalagala—a very high mountain, as you may judge by standing the name on end.

We started in good season, reaching the pinnacle an hour earlier than expected. The Baron always took three hours for an hour's journey, the two hours for filling his helmet, bags, and pockets with beetles, tarantulas, lizards, snakes, and all the rest of the things people are supposed to see only about midnight after a mince-pie supper.

But Oh, the view was magnificent! (When the Nutshell Club comes to limit us to 1,000 words I will tell you all about it.) The Baron went to work with his barometres, thermometers, anemeters, pedometers, heliometers, and gas-metres, while I took in the glory of the scene which was thrilling beyond description. Word-painting, however, is too much like canned strawberries; so I will confine myself to events.

We had a lunch on the ledge, and then the Baron resumed his work.

"When you see a little white cloud gathering away down the valley yonder, call me and we will go below!" I did as I was told, then went to sleep over it. It must have been hours later that I heard the Baron's cry. "Ho! a little more and you would have looked in as here for the night. Don't you see the mist gathering yonder?"

"But it is early," said I, glancing at my watch. "We don't tell time by the watch here, man," he replied, gathering up his pocket. "Was the mist rare it is night, if it is out two o'clock P.M. for one cannot see one's hand before the face. Come! I fear we are caught as it is!"

The thought of being made a prisoner in a dense cloud upon a tropic mountain pinnacle for a night inclined my steps downward with haste. Soon the clouds began to circulate around us. There was a native dak-bungalow used by pilgrims who go to the peaks for worship, like the Magicians of old, half way down.

"If we reach that we shall do well," said the Baron. "Otherwise we roost in the crotch of a banyan."

mat. A couple of swarthy Cinghalese, with their hair down their backs lived there, with a dog whose in a rock crvice back of it. But anything is better than nothing, I argued.

I wore a pair of raw silk pantaloons, which I had brought all the way from Japan. Although they had turned from an unassuming gray to a bilious yellow in the tropic heat, they were very comfortable.

There were two rooms in the bungalow, upon the rough couches of which one could lie awake and watch the stars through the rents in the thatching, or catch the raindrops.

We were served with nice, clean curry and rice, sweet and savory as ever, fried plantains and steaks from the fic potatoes, which resemble frog's-legs in taste, though it is a creature without wings, feet, or fins. Green cocoanut milk and arrack—a drink made from the cocoanut bud—refreshed us.

The natives were servilely polite, probably veneration the man who will allow a tarantula and a scorpion to fight out a long-time grudge upon a shiny bald spot under his cork helmet. So did it!

We sat smoking after supper, when I noticed two cadaverous-looking natives conversing stealthily in the doorway. They clearly meant business of some kind. I hinted as much to the Baron, who glanced up annoyed.

"I don't make eye vaa't doo baats!" he said with a twinkle.

I sat down and tried to follow the scents

I had almost succeeded in coaxing summer when the little window at the end of the room was opened by an unseen hand.

For a moment a fear possessed me, as the damp chill of the mountain mist swept in like ghosts from the under-world. Suddenly I was stunned by the sight of a head rising slowly from behind the sill, turning from right to left, surveying all points of the room. The blood whizzed to my temples. I reached for my pistol and waited. Then I raised up, only to have my horror increased when I saw that the head had no shoulders beneath it! This was a little too much. I had taken it time at twenty paces many a time, but was now sure that I could not hit a whale at ten. The head was bodiless; I could see the thin gray line of light beneath it. I tried to collect my thoughts, but confess myself cowed.

Suddenly the head disappeared, and I began to breathe again.

An instant later, however, another head appeared, turning from left to right, surveying the room exactly as the first.

I rose higher. Ah, that head had a pair of shoulders beneath it. Then came a pair of black hands on the sill, then arms, then a big, broad naked boom, then a pair of swarthy legs, and before I could realize it the villain was actually in the room, noiseless as a phantom.

I clutched my weapon. Had he approached the bed, I should not have hesitated; but he slid off to the right, and crept like a serpent up to the rash chair upon which hung those raw silk pantaloons.

I leaped from my couch, and made a dash for him. With a gasp of grief the fellow grabbed the prize just as I struck him on the back of the neck with the flat of my hand, but as the sleek scoundrel was graced from head to foot, my hand slid the full length of his back, and I fell head over heels in the corner.

When I woke from this last surprise the fog had swallowed up my captive, and I was alone. Exhausted, enraged, I lighted the taper and made an exclamation.

My left hand was covered with blood, for my heavy ring, being turned in, had torn the length of his back. I slipped through the window into the thick mist, finding the contents of my pockets strewn along so that I could have traced him half a mile. I could not see the ground, but felt around with caution. Suddenly my hand clutched a head of hair, and I held on. To my surprise it did not struggle, and I lifted it to the light. It was a common skull refused with hair, with cotton eyes, and mounted on a wire.

Ah, a clever ruse! He thought that if I were

THE LIFELINE

about the life of a sailor or frightened to death—in either case a harmless prey. I came back to my chop-block pillow with the resignation of a martyr who fits his nock in the lunette of a galliot. As there was little left to eat, except my morsel of bread, I thought I should do now. To be homeless and homeless in a strange land had been enough; but to be homeless, careworn, penniless, and alone, worse than all, lonelier, was really too bad.

The next morning when I entered the Baron's side of the deck, the good Tonten laughed like a child.

"Did you work der dummy-head on you?" he asked.

"Yes," said I, "and here it is," holding up the grotesque thing by the hair like an executioner. "Well, dat's as good as dead. I don't want it. You'll work several others on you later!"

"No, they won't. I'll shoot next time," yelled the Baron, and then he disappeared.

Then, after a short breakfast, he came down the mountain, my limbs encased in a "cammy" which is a native sort of Mother Hubbard's garment.

Suddenly the Baron halted in the path.

"Look!" he said. I looked, then drew my pistol and made the air ring with shots after two villains plunked up the path, who separated and disappeared.

There were my new light pantaloons, and, oh, heaven! each one of the soundrels wore a leg.

MY DOUBLE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HENRY TEEBOD.

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HE looked into the face of his friend of mine a few years ago, and proves to me that the words of Shakespeare, "There are more things in heaven and earth than dreamt of in your philosophy."

To get the full benefit of his story, I will let my friend speak for himself.

"I am a bookkeeper, and, in connection with this, I also hold the position of secretary for one of the largest building associations in the State of Ohio."

"My presence there, and often three times, a week in the place where the Association meets, is a late hour in the evening."

"It was one of the many beautiful suburbs to which the city of Cincinnati is famous, and, being a single man, board with private family, the head of which is one of my college companions."

"One evening in the month of November, being detained by building association work, I went home on the 10:40 commuter's train, on the O. & D. R. R. to walk about a mile from the station. It had been a cold, disagreeable and rainy day, but now the sky was beginning to clear up, as a cold wave was approaching from the northwest. The clouds were driven before the wind with increasing rapidity, when suddenly, the full moon appeared through a rift in the sky."

"This caused me to look up and to my surprise I noticed that I was not alone. This was the only person that had left the train a few minutes previous. On the opposite side of the street, I noticed a woman who was walking, as thoughtful as myself, and in the same direction. My astonishment, however, rapidly changed to fear when, upon closer inspection, I saw that my companion was the exact counterpart of myself in all particulars, even to the walk."

"I have never known of or suspected. On the contrary, I am a bookkeeper, and, in connection with this, I also hold the position of secretary for one of the largest building associations in the State of Ohio."

"However, this woman, who was walking, was the exact counterpart of myself in all particulars, even to the walk."

"I will not to a complete stranger, and the blood in my veins began to tingle. I walked forward but could not, strange to say, my eyes also remained steady on the woman, who slightly recovered myself, I began to run. He smiled at me, and I walked with him to the inch."

"I was not continued until I caught sight of the house where I resided, and in a few seconds I was at the gate. I rushed up the steps, entered the house, but just as I opened the door, I saw the same woman who had been walking on my face. On no account would I have admitted him into the house, and I walked on for now I was completely overcome."

"The next morning I heard the servant girl making my double whether she should bring my lunch to my room, or to the kitchen. I went to the kitchen, and there I saw the woman who had been walking on my face. On no account would I have admitted him into the house, and I walked on for now I was completely overcome."

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room. But, gradually, the remembrance of last night's experience came back to me with full force and I began to feel that I was not alone. Presently someone knocked at the door, and upon my reply, the stationer entered. He entered, and coming up to me asked me how I felt. I told him that I was feeling better, and that I looked at him in wonder. I told him that I was feeling better, and that I looked at him in wonder. I told him that I was feeling better, and that I looked at him in wonder.

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"German Syrup"

William McKeeCart, Druggist at Bloomingdale, Me., writes: "I have had the Asthma for ever since I came out of the army and though I have been in the drug business for fifteen years, and have tried nearly everything on the market, nothing has given me the slightest relief until a few months ago, when I used Bo-schee's German Syrup. I am now glad to acknowledge the great good it has done me. I am greatly relieved during the day and at night go to sleep without the least trouble." @

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Then she began to realize how alone she was and how late it was, and her foot flew. Some ruffians came after her, some boys, pursued by policemen, who were in the neighborhood. She sped along back to the hotel, up the stairs into her room.

She sang herself into a chair, in tragic abandon, a doorway of despair. Suddenly the door opened. She neither looked, nor heeded.

"Why, Flosie, where have you been? What is the matter? I had to go to the midnight train to meet a friend. I sent you a message. Did you not receive it? You little darling! You careless, wild, little blossom," and she fainted in her husband's arms.

I received the Organ you sent me in first-class condition, and am very much surprised at getting such a good instrument for that price. I will cheerfully recommend them to anyone wanting an Organ. Please send me another catalogue.

Mrs. Jas. H. Johnson, 533 River St., Paterson, N. Y.

Modene Removes hair from the face, neck, arms, or any part of the person without pain or injury to the skin.

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brance, and see if they don't vote it the most

There, on the sill worn by devout feet, was—a mad dog. Its red tongue lolled from its mouth, green-white foam dripped from its jaws, its sweat-covered sides rose and fell as it stood,

The best answer we can make to same is the following received by the Company from one of our subscribers:

I received the Organ you sent me in first-class condition, and am very much surprised at getting such a good instrument for that price. I will cheerfully

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*...erve, Orion. It is not a stimulant; not a medicine;
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